

House File 471 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 471
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 114)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to election precinct boundaries and
- 2 consolidations.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 49.8, subsection 7, Code 2017, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 7. Precinct boundaries established by or pursuant to
4 section 49.3 or 49.4, and not changed under subsection 1 since
5 the most recent federal decennial census, may be changed once
6 during the period beginning January 1 of the second year
7 following a year in which a federal decennial census is taken
8 and ending June 30 of the year immediately following the year
9 in which the next succeeding federal decennial census is taken,
10 if the commissioner recommends and the board of supervisors
11 finds that the change will effect a substantial savings in
12 election costs. Changes made under this subsection shall be
13 made not later than ninety-nine days before a primary election,
14 unless the changes will not take effect until January 1 of the
15 next even-numbered year.

16 Sec. 2. Section 49.11, subsection 3, unnumbered paragraph
17 1, Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

18 The precincts established pursuant to section 49.7 shall
19 not be changed except in the manner provided by law. However,
20 ~~for any election other than the primary or general election~~
21 ~~or any special election held under section 69.14~~, the county
22 commissioner of elections may:

23 Sec. 3. Section 49.11, subsection 3, paragraph d,
24 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2017, is amended to read as
25 follows:

26 ~~Notwithstanding subsection 1~~, the The commissioner may also
27 consolidate precincts for any election ~~including a primary and~~
28 ~~general election~~ under any of the following circumstances:

29 EXPLANATION

30 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
31 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

32 This bill relates to election precinct boundaries and
33 consolidations. Under current law, precincts established
34 following a federal decennial census are not allowed to be
35 changed unless otherwise provided by law. Current law also

1 provides that a county commissioner of elections (county
2 auditor) may recommend, and a board of supervisors may approve,
3 changes to county precincts that will effect a substantial
4 savings in election costs. The bill adds a reference to the
5 statutory standards that must be followed when establishing
6 election precinct boundaries.

7 Also under current law, county commissioners are, in certain
8 elections, allowed to consolidate two or more precincts into
9 one and permanently divide precincts. Under the bill, county
10 commissioners are allowed to consolidate two or more precincts
11 into one and permanently divide precincts in all elections.